

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992

In our prior order in this docket, the Commission took action to remove regulatory barriers to competition in the video marketplace by giving meaning to the words Congress wrote in section 621 of the Cable Act. Our findings in that order only applied to new entrants. In today's item we find that some of the Commission's findings in that order apply equally to incumbent providers as they do to new entrants. Given this, the order we adopt today takes action to level the regulatory playing-field between these providers. It is important to emphasize that today's order in no way gives incumbents a unilateral right to breach their existing contractual obligations. As I have said before, I am committed to seeing that consumers are able to realize the benefits of competition in the forms of better services and lower prices. I hope that the regulatory parity that we establish in this order helps to achieve this goal.